

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Thursday, May 13, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: Sebelius, Holder Highlight New Health Care Fraud Fighting
Authorities, Release FY09 HCFAC Report

Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice today highlighted new tools in the Affordable Care Act that will help fight fraud, strengthen consumer rights and protect taxpayer dollars. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Eric Holder said the new law will build on the success of current joint Department of Justice and HHS fraud fighting efforts like the HEAT Task Force. A fact sheet on the new authorities is available at:
http://www.healthreform.gov/affordablecareact_summary.html

In addition, the annual Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program (HCFAC) Report released today by both Departments shows that innovative strategies to protect consumers helped prevent fraud and recover billions of dollars for taxpayers in fiscal year 2009. The full report is available at: <http://www.justice.gov/dag/pubdoc/hcfacreport2009.pdf>

“The Affordable Care Act gives us new tools to fight fraud, protect consumers, and safeguard taxpayer dollars,” said Secretary Sebelius. “It strengthens our ability to stop fraud before it starts by making it harder to submit false claims and easier to catch those who try to cheat out consumers. And, the new law will guarantee that those who try to game the system face severe consequences.”

In addition to strengthening law enforcement capabilities, the new law will help shift the emphasis from the old model of “pay and chase” to a new model that puts a premium on fraud prevention and program integrity. HHS will be working with the Department of Justice and the newly created Center for Program Integrity (CPI) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to build on the success of the HEAT Task Force and aggressively fight fraud in order to ensure that the full benefits of the new law reach American families. Peter Budetti, MD, JD, has been named the Director of CPI and Deputy Administrator for Program Integrity at CMS.

A full press release regarding today’s announcements is available at:
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/05/20100513a.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.